

In conclusion, I do not apologise to yourselves, Gentlemen, for trespassing so long upon your pages, for it is in the very nature of a defence to take up more room than an attack; and having published the attack, I am sure you will do me the justice to publish my defence; and the same sense of justice will prevent you from prescribing its limits; while I should be wanting in respect to the Society, if I failed to do my utmost to demonstrate that one, whose services they so long thanked, and paid for, did not unworthily receive their favours.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient humble servant,

Darjeeling, 24th June, 1839.

J. T. PEARSON.

ART. XI.—*Proceedings of the Asiatic Society.*

(Wednesday Evening, the 1st May, 1839.)

At a Meeting of the Asiatic Society held in the Grand Jury Room:—

The Honorable Sir E. RYAN, President, in the chair.

Read the Proceedings of the last Meeting.

DR. MARTIN was proposed by DR. O'SHAUGHNESSY, seconded by the President.

DR. BAIN was proposed by the Officiating Secretary, seconded by the BISHOP of Calcutta.

Professor AGASSIZ was proposed as an Honorary Member by the President, seconded by the BISHOP of Calcutta.

The Nomination was referred to the Committee of Papers.

Read a letter from the Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society, acknowledging the receipt of presentation copies of Oriental publications, forwarded by the Society.

Read a letter from Professor LASSEN to the address of Mr. JAMES PRINSEP, proposing that the Society should establish an agency in Bonn for the sale of Sanscrit publications, and bearing warm testimony to the great importance of Mr. J. PRINSEP'S recent discoveries; requesting also information on the subject of specimens of birds which may be procurable here.

Resolved—That the thanks of the Society be presented to Professor LASSEN for his liberal proposal in respect to the agency for the sale of Oriental publications, which appears calculated to be very beneficial to the Society, and that the Officiating Secretary be requested to communicate with him on the subject, stating that the Society has entirely left with him the selection of an agent in Bonn for the sale of Oriental publications.

The Officiating Secretary then read several applications for the situation of Curator, vacated by the departure of Mr. JAMESON, but as the candidates' qualifications had not been considered by the Committee of Papers to reach the standard required by the Society,—

It was proposed by DR. O'SHAUGHNESSY, seconded by Captain FORBES—That DR. M'CLELLAND be requested to accept the office of Curator, on the usual allowances.

DR. M'CLELLAND returned thanks to the Society, and expressed his readiness to forward the views of the Society in any manner that he was able; but

he regretted that in consequence of his official duties he would not be able to devote more than two hours in the morning to the duties of the Museum. He further stated, that if he accepted the situation on the usual allowances he should beg to condition, that as long as he was Curator no subscriptions be received from members for the preservation of the various collections in the Museum—the whole amount of the salary should be devoted to that object.

The President said that though the offer was very liberal, yet the Society he thought ought to meet from its own funds all such expenses as might be recommended by Dr. M'CLELLAND, without sacrifice to his personal allowance. Dr. M'CLELLAND consented that the appointment should stand on this footing.

Read a letter from Dr. G. VANDENBURGH, of Bonn, touching a box of shells sent by the Society. The names having been detached from the shells, he solicited the Society to transmit another supply, correctly labelled and packed. Resolved—That the letter be referred to the Committee of Papers.

Library.

The following Books were presented :—

Proceedings of the Geological Society of London, for 1837, 5th Part, Vol. 2—Part 2, of 1838 and Vol. 2, Part 3, for 1839—*by the Society.*

History, Antiquities, Topography, and Statistics of Eastern India, by Mr. MARTIN, London 1838, royal 8vo. 3 vols.—*by the Government of India.*

Pickering's Remarks on the Indian Languages of North America—*by the American Philosophical Society.*

Ditto Eulogy on Dr. BOWDITCH, Cambridge, 1838,—*By ditto.*

Translation of the Arabian Nights, by Moonshee SHUMSUDEEN AHMUD, in Hindee, Vol. I,—2 copies.

Mathematical Principles of Mechanical Philosophy, by the Rev. J. H. PRATT—*by the author.*

The following received from the Booksellers:—

Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia on Probabilities.

History of British Birds by W. YARRELL, Nos. 1 to 9.

Museum.

Various skins and specimens were presented in the name of Mr. JAMES MIDDLETON.

Antiquities.

The Officiating Secretary exhibited to the Meeting drawings of Col. STACY'S coins cut on type-metal by HURREEMOHUN, a Native Artist, employed in the Calcutta Mint.

Read a letter from Mr. T. H. SALE, of Sylhet, forwarding a facsimile of an inscription taken by him at Gohattee.

A similar donation was received from Lieut. MCGREGOR, obtained from the ruins of a fort he was taking down. The character in which the inscription was written was clearly legible, but no meaning could be gathered from the sentences.

Captain JAMES LOW forwarded a paper on the Laws of Siam. Referred to the Committee of Papers.

In pursuance of the resolution of the last Meeting, Mr. SUTHERLAND stated that the Commentary compiled by PREMCHUND NYARUTRA was more compendious than the works from which it was taken, but seemed to him calculated to answer all the purposes required. It was a continuation of that printed in the first volume of the work in question,

and had the same merits and defects, but in consequence of some doubt as to whether the Commentary so prepared was likely to be acceptable to Sanscrit students, Mr. JAMES PRINSEP had sent to Benares for the Commentary at length.

It was therefore proposed by Mr. H. T. PRINSEP, seconded by Captain W. N. FORBES—That the best mode of clearing up the difficulty would be to send copies to the Sanscrit Colleges of Benares and Calcutta, and also to Messrs. HODGSON and WILKINSON, requesting them to favor the Society with their opinion on the merits of the work in its present form, and the expediency of continuing its publication.

The proposition was unanimously agreed to.

Read an application from Newab TAHAWUR JUNG, requesting the Society to make a representation to Government on the subject of a subscription for a certain number of copies of the "*Sharaya Islam*," the publication of which had been undertaken by himself in conjunction with the Society, and copies of which might probably be required for the use of the Courts or of the Seminaries of Education supported by Government.

Resolved that the request be complied with.

Col. BENSON handed over to the Officiating Secretary a letter he had received from the vicinity of Amarapoor, dated 23d March, containing an account of an awful earthquake that had occurred in that country.

On the conclusion of the general business of the evening, Mr. H. T. PRINSEP stated that he was happy to have it in his power to inform the Meeting of a very distinguished honor that had been conferred upon a Member of the Society, whose selection for the unsolicited distinction was a compliment paid to the whole body.

It had fallen to him, Mr. P. stated, to be the official channel for transmitting to Mr. HODGSON, of Nipal, the diploma and letter of appointment as Chevalier of the Legion of Honor of France, which the enlightened Government of that nation had conferred upon this gentleman, in acknowledgment of his successful labours in the elucidation of various questions of Budhistical faith and doctrine, and in the discovery and procurement of the volumes "*Kahgyur*" and "*Stagyur*," in which a vast mine of curious literature had been concealed, no less than as a tribute due to his zeal in discovering and making known a great variety of new objects of Natural History and Science.

It was heretofore a rare thing to see the Societies of Europe paying tribute to the worth and services rendered to Science and Literature by the learned, in this distant quarter; but of late years their merits had worked out for them a reputation which was now universally acknowledged. Still admission on the ground of literary and scientific attainment to the distinctions conferred by the Sovereigns of other countries was a compliment that Mr. HODGSON only had yet received; and Mr. PRINSEP added, he felt assured that the Society would be glad to have the circumstance placed upon the Records of its Proceedings. Mr. P. then communicated a copy of the diploma of appointment as Chevalier of the Legion of Honor which had just been received, having been transmitted through the Honorable Court of Directors to the Government, to be forwarded to Mr. HODGSON. Ordered to be deposited.